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ACTION WHA-00

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	PERC-00
	EUR-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	CAC-00
	VCE-00	AC-00	NSAE-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00	OPR-00	ACE-00
	SP-00	ECA-00	PRM-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/000W	

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P 182037Z JUN 04
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6728
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 002033

NSC FOR CBARTON
HQ USSOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
UNSID DCHA/OTI FOR RPORTER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2014
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: THE NEXT ROUND OF ARRESTS?

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ABELARDO A. ARIAS FOR REASONS 1.4 (d
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SUMMARY

1 (C) A Caracas prosecutor has called Juan Fernandez, leader of Gente de Petroleo (anti-Chavez group composed of fired PDVSA employees), to testify June 17 as a suspect on unspecified charges relating to the 2002 national strike. Victor Ferreres, president of Venevision testified June 15 about the weapons found by the DISIP (Political Police) on a Venevision property June 12, which prosecutors are trying to tie to the paramilitary case.

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Juan Fernandez

2. (U) A Caracas prosecutor informed Juan Fernandez, leader of Gente de Petroleo (anti-Chavez group composed of fired PDVSA employees) and member of the G-5 (a group of senior opposition figures), that he was a suspect in an investigation involving the national strike in 2002. Fernandez is due to testify on June 17. The prosecutor is the same one who sought to detain Fernandez and other ex-officials of PDVSA last year on charges of treason for their role as leaders of the national strike in 2002. At that time a Caracas appeals court rejected the arrest warrant issued by a lower court. According to newspaper reports, the evidence in the case consists of hundreds of pictures of empty gas stations, and technical reports of accidents at PDVSA installations, but no proof of the individual responsibility of any of the strike leaders in any alleged acts of sabotage.

Venevision

3. (U) Victor Ferreres, president of Venevision, testified as a witness in the military court investigating the case of alleged Colombian paramilitaries captured May 9 outside Caracas. This followed the discovery by DISIP (Political Police) agents of some old firearms on a property leased by Venevision. Ferreres told reporters that he was satisfied with the way the testimony went, and was confident the case would be resolved satisfactorily.

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